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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3601

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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July 12, 2014

Mr. Kenneth Wolfe  
Deputy Director  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

Attached is a list of questions that Congressman Jim Bridenstine attempted to have answered during his visit to Temporary Shelter Kilo (TSK) today. While the personnel at TSK were helpful and professional in their responses, they did not have all the information requested.

Please provide answers to these questions by the close of business on Friday, July 18, 2014.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joe Kaufman  
Chief of Staff  
Congressman Jim Bridenstine  
202-225-2211 (office)  
[joseph.kaufman@mail.house.gov](mailto:joseph.kaufman@mail.house.gov)

July 12, 2014

Questions from Congressman Jim Bridenstine  
for HHS Officials Regarding Processes, Procedures,  
and UAC Housed at Temporary Shelter Kilo  
Located at Ft, Sill, Oklahoma

1. Is information concerning the UAC sponsors who are taking possession of the children being entered into IDENT (Immigration Detection and Enforcement Database) which is used by ICE for identification?
2. If not, why not? And what system is being used?
3. If HHS does not enter the sponsors or UAC into IDENT, does CBP or ICE enter the information at some point in the hand over process?
4. Does the statutory requirement to transfer the children over to HHS from CBP within 72 hours hinder the UAC identification process?
5. What other federal and non-federal entities and contractors are coordinating efforts at TSK? Do they have access to IDENT or other software being used for identification?
6. Has HHS or any other federal or non-federal entity shared information about UAC with other entities (charities, faith based organizations, not for profit organizations or non-governmental organizations)? What type of information was shared? Was consent requested and secured from UAC families before sharing information? Has HHS documented both the instances where consent was secured and not secured?
7. Are the identities of the sponsors being confirmed through the embassy or consulate of the country of origin?
8. Are the identities or birth records of the UAC being confirmed through the embassy or consulate of the country of origin? If so, what percentage at TSK and system wide?
9. Reports indicate that "minors" are misreporting their age to gain access to the U.S. Some are even 21 years of age. Are the UAC being entered into IDENT to verify their ages?
10. What percentage of UAC are being turned over to sponsors who are un-documented or in the United States illegally at TSK and system wide?
11. Does HHS ever release minors to someone other than a parent or legal guardian? Under what circumstances? Do other departments of the U.S. government ever release minors to someone other than a parent or legal guardian? Under what circumstances?
12. Why does HHS call persons receiving physical custody of UAC "hosts" or "custodians" or "sponsors" instead of legal guardians?
13. How many of the UAC are victims of trafficking? What process is HHS using to determine victimization of UAC and the nature of that victimization?
14. What information is being gathered from sponsor concerning organized criminal activity intended to smuggle people into the United States?

15. What percentage of the sponsors themselves paid either coyotes (smugglers) or trans-national criminal organizations to gain access to the United States?
16. In what percentage of cases did sponsors or other persons pay coyotes to bring UAC to the border?
17. Coyotes access the United States by paying Los Zetas and other trans-national criminal organizations that guarantee access. What processes are used in federal government attempts to track the money paid to transport UAC to and across the southern border?
18. According to the Congressional Research Service there are mass grave sites where migrants have been executed by trans-national criminal organizations (TCOs). What accounts have UAC provided of such atrocities?
19. Are HHS personnel aware of any sponsors indicating they are in fear for their lives for failure to pay TCOs?
20. What percentages of the UAC are coming across the border in areas where the administration has denied the CBP access due to (1) federal environmental laws and (2) other federal laws? What specific areas within each border state are off limits to the CBP because of such laws?
21. An immigration attorney in Tulsa states that Notice to Appear (NTA) documents are currently being provided with dates to appear 2-3 years in the future. What is being done to track the UAC and their sponsors during this time?
22. There are reports funding has been redirected from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO) to pay for the UAC crisis. Please confirm what percentages of HSI and ERO budgets have been redirected to pay for UAC-related operations.
23. Have any UAC denied admission to TSK or any other UAC facilities? If so, how many and why?
24. What has been the largest number of UAC in custody at TSK at any one time?
25. Testimony presented to the HASC indicated that the average stay at a UAC facility is 15-30 days. What has been the average stay at TSK for those who have been released to sponsors?
26. What is the total number of UAC that have come through TSK?
  - Of that number, how many have been released to sponsors?
  - Where are these sponsors currently located or residing?
  - What percentage of UAC are being released to non-family sponsors?
  - How is the relationship of the sponsors to the family of the UAC being verified?
27. If the number of UAC continues to grow, are you expecting to expand the footprint or extend the lease of Ft. Sill? Will the footprints or leases at other HHS facilities be expanded? If so, how many UAC is HHS planning to accommodate at any one time and for how long? How many UAC is HHS planning to process through its UAC facilities in total, and over what period of time?
28. What medical assessments are being performed of UAC who are processed into TSK? How are these assessments performed? How are the results recorded? How are the records processed and archived? How are they made available to the CDC, NIH and to health departments within the various states and localities?

29. Are medical assessments being performed by medical professionals? If not medical professionals, what are the credentials of staff assessing UAC health?
30. What diseases or illnesses have been found present at the TSK facility? At other UAC facilities? Please detail according to the location of the UAC facility where specific diseases and illnesses have been identified.
31. How do you identify UAC who have been members of gangs or who have committed violent crimes?
32. How do you collect and archive this information and share it with federal, state and local law enforcement entities?
33. How to you identify UAC who have been victims of abuse and/or violent crimes? How do you collect and archive their stories?
34. Please provide the following documentation.
  - Documentation for all UAC that have been released from TSK.
  - Documentation of the sponsors to whom the UAC were released.
  - Documentation of where the sponsors will be located while they are waiting for NTA dates.
35. Are you in need of additional personnel, shelter and/or financial resources to care for UAC?
36. How many calls have been received from potential sponsors or family members looking for UAC who may have crossed the border?

Abbreviations Used:

CBP	Customs and Border Patrol
ERO	Enforcement Removal Operations
HASC	House Armed Services Committee
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HSI	Homeland Security Investigations
ICE	Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
IDENT	Immigration Detection and Enforcement Database
NTA	Notice to Appear
TCO	Trans-national Criminal Organizations
TSK	Temporary Shelter Kilo, the HHS facility at Ft. Sill
UAC	Unaccompanied Alien Children